

SENATE BILL 2383

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 15, Part 5, relative to jurisdictional limits in courts of general sessions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-501, is amended by deleting subsection (d) and substituting instead the following:

(d)(1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2), the jurisdiction of courts of general sessions shall be as follows:

(A) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in all civil cases, both in law and equity, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision;

(B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in all civil actions involving damage to property;

(C) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to award an alternative money judgment;

(D) Unlimited original jurisdiction over all actions of forcible entry and detainer;

(E) Unlimited original jurisdiction over all actions to recover personal property; and

(F) Jurisdiction to issue restraining orders and to enforce the penalty provisions for violation of such restraining orders.

(2) In any county having a population of not less than seven hundred thousand (700,000) according to the 1980 federal census or any subsequent federal census, and in any county having a population of not less than sixty-eight thousand one hundred (68,100) nor more than sixty-eight thousand four hundred (68,400) according to the 1990 federal census or any subsequent federal census, the jurisdiction of courts of general sessions shall be as follows:

(A) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in all civil cases, both in law and equity, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision;

(B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in all civil actions involving damage to property;

(C) Unlimited original jurisdiction over all actions of forcible entry and detainer;

(D) Unlimited original jurisdiction over all actions to recover personal property, including jurisdiction to award an alternative money judgment; and

(E) Jurisdiction to issue restraining orders and to enforce the penalty provisions for violation of such restraining orders.

(3) For the purpose of calculating whether a judgment entered by a court of general sessions is within or exceeds the monetary jurisdictional limits established for such courts by this subsection, the following amounts shall not be included:

(A) Any amount awarded for attorney fees;

(B) Any court costs assessed by the court; and

(C) Any discretionary costs assessed by the court.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.